Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay from Lattice QCD: The $n^{0} n^{0} \rightarrow p^{+} p^{+} e^{-} e^{-} \quad$ Amplitude

Will Detmold, Zhenghao Fu, Anthony Grebe, Will Jay, David Murphy, Patrick Oare, Phiala Shanahan

July 31st, 2023

## Neutrinoless double $\beta(0 \nu \beta \beta)$ decay

- $0 \nu \beta \beta$ decay is a hypothetical process:

$$
n^{0} n^{0} \rightarrow p^{+} p^{+} e^{-} e^{-}
$$

which, if observed, would:

- Violate lepton number (really $B-L$ ).
- Show that neutrinos are Majorana particles.


Above: quark-level process inducing $0 \nu \beta \beta$ decay.

- Experiments looking for $0 \nu \beta \beta$ decay in heavy nuclei (i.e. ${ }^{76} \mathrm{Ge},{ }^{136} \mathrm{Xe}$ ).
- Cannot directly compute matrix elements (MEs) in these nuclei with LQCD.
- Instead, use LQCD to compute inputs to EFT in the form of low-energy constants (LECs), and use EFT to study nuclear $0 \nu \beta \beta$ decay.


## $0 \nu \beta \beta$ decay mechanisms

- Models are characterized by whether the decay is induced by non-local interactions (long-distance) or local interactions (short-distance).


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Light Majorana exchange


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Heavy neutrino exchange


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"short-distance"

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## Lattice setup

- One ensemble $\Longrightarrow$ no continuum, infinite-volume, or chiral extrapolation.
- This ensemble uses the following discretizations and parameters:
- Gauge field: Lüscher-Weisz, $O(a)$ improved action.
- Fermions: $n_{f}=3$ degenerate light quarks, Wilson-Clover action.

| $L$ | $T$ | $\beta$ | $a m_{q}$ | $a(\mathrm{fm})$ | $m_{\pi}(\mathrm{MeV})$ | $n_{\text {cfg }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 32 | 48 | 6.1 | -0.2450 | 0.145 | 806 | 12,139 |

## Two-point functions

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathcal{O}_{n n}=\text { dineutron interpolator } \\
& \mathcal{O}_{p p}=\text { diproton interpolator }
\end{aligned}
$$

- Two-point functions computed with wall source and point sink.


Wall source


Point sink

$$
C_{2}(t)=\sum_{\mathbf{x}}\left\langle\mathcal{O}_{p p}(\mathbf{x}, t) \mathcal{O}_{p p}^{\dagger}(0)\right\rangle
$$

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 electroweak Hamiltonian $\mathscr{H}_{W}=2 \sqrt{2} G_{F} V_{u d}\left(\bar{e} \gamma^{\mu} P_{L} \nu_{e}\right) J_{\mu}$.

$$
M^{0 \nu}=\int d^{4} x d^{4} y\langle p p e e| \mathcal{T}\left\{\mathcal{H}_{W}(x) \mathcal{H}_{W}(y)\right\}|n n\rangle
$$

Charged current, $J_{\mu}=\bar{u}_{L} \gamma_{\mu} d_{L}$

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$$
\propto m_{\beta \beta} \int d^{4} x d^{4} y \Gamma_{\alpha \beta} S_{\nu}(x-y)\langle p p| T\left\{J_{\alpha}(x) J_{\beta}(y)\right\}|n n\rangle
$$

Lepton tensor $\Gamma_{\alpha \beta}=\bar{e} \gamma_{\alpha} P_{L} \gamma_{\beta} e$
Neutrino propagator

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- Extracting $M^{0 \nu}$ on the lattice requires computing the following 4-point function:

$$
C_{4}\left(t_{\mathrm{snk}}, t_{x}, t_{y}, 0\right)=\sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} S_{\nu}(x-y) \Gamma_{\alpha \beta}\left\langle\mathcal{O}_{p p}\left(t_{\mathrm{snk}}\right) J_{\alpha}(x) J_{\beta}(y) \mathcal{O}_{n n}^{\dagger}(0)\right\rangle
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## Extracting $M^{0 \nu}$ (Summation method)

- Consider the following summed correlator ratio:

$$
S_{4}\left(t_{\mathrm{snk}} ; \Delta_{\mathrm{s} r c}, \Delta_{\mathrm{s} n k}\right)=\sum_{t_{x}=\Delta_{\mathrm{s} r c}}^{t_{\mathrm{snk}}-\Delta_{\mathrm{s} n k}} \sum_{t_{y}=\Delta_{\mathrm{src}}}^{t_{\mathrm{snk}}-\Delta_{\mathrm{s} n k}} \frac{C_{4}\left(t_{\mathrm{snk}}, t_{x}, t_{y}, 0\right)}{C_{2}\left(t_{\mathrm{snk}}\right)}
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\xrightarrow{0<t_{\mathrm{snk}}-\Delta_{\mathrm{src}}-\Delta_{\mathrm{snk}} \ll T} \text { const. }+\frac{M^{0 \nu}}{2 m_{p p}} t_{\mathrm{snk}}+\text { const. } \times e^{-\delta E\left(t_{\mathrm{snk}}-\Delta_{\mathrm{snk}}-\Delta_{\mathrm{src}}\right)}
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- We fit the data against two models in the operator separation $v$, and extract $M^{0 \nu}$ as $2 m_{p p} B$ :

1. $f\left(t ; \Delta_{\text {src }}, \Delta_{\text {snk }}\right)=A+B v+C e^{-\delta E v}$.
2. $f\left(t ; \Delta_{\text {src }}, \Delta_{\text {snk }}\right)=A+B v$.

## Summed correlator ratio $S_{4}$



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## [Preliminary] Long-distance results

- Conversion to GeV yields the preliminary result:

$$
\left|M^{0 \nu}\right|=0.3(\mathrm{X}) \mathrm{GeV}^{2}
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- Uncertainties (X) still being quantified.
- Consistent with other fitting methods.
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Z. Davoudi, S. Kadam.

Phys. Rev. D 105 (2022) 9, 094502.

- Matching to pionless EFT ( $\not \subset E F T$ ) to extract the low-energy constant $g_{\nu}^{N N}$ is in progress. This matching proceeds as follows:

1. Compute the long-distance amplitude in $\not \subset E F T$ as a function of $g_{\nu}^{N N}$.
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$$
\text { Debate as to whether or not the dineutron is bound at } m_{\pi}=806 \mathrm{MeV} \text {. }
$$

## Short distance $0 \nu \beta \beta$ decay

- Hadronic operator basis $\left\{H_{i}\right\}$ mediating the decay at LO splits into five scalar operators $\left\{\mathcal{O}_{k}\right\}$ and four vector operators $\left\{\mathcal{V}_{\ell}\right\}$ :



## Scalar operators

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{O}_{1} & =\left(\bar{u} \gamma^{\mu} P_{L} d\right)\left[\bar{u} \gamma_{\mu} P_{R} d\right] \\
\mathcal{O}_{1^{\prime}} & =\left(\bar{u} \gamma^{\mu} P_{L} d\right]\left[\bar{u} \gamma_{\mu} P_{R} d\right) \\
\mathcal{O}_{2} & =\left(\bar{u} P_{L} d\right)\left[\bar{u} P_{L} d\right]+(L \leftrightarrow R) \\
\mathcal{O}_{2^{\prime}} & =\left(\bar{u} P_{L} d\right]\left[\bar{u} P_{L} d\right)+(L \leftrightarrow R) \\
\mathcal{O}_{3} & =\left(\bar{u} \gamma^{\mu} P_{L} d\right)\left[\bar{u} \gamma_{\mu} P_{L} d\right]+(L \leftrightarrow R)
\end{aligned}
$$



$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Vector operators } \\
& \mathcal{V}_{1}^{\mu}=\left(\bar{u} \gamma^{\mu} P_{L} d\right)\left[\bar{u} P_{R} d\right]+(L \leftrightarrow R) \\
& \mathcal{V}_{2}^{\mu}=\left(\bar{u} t^{a} \gamma^{\mu} P_{L} d\right)\left[\bar{u} t^{a} P_{R} d\right]+(L \leftrightarrow R) \\
& \mathcal{V}_{3}^{\mu}=\left(\bar{u} \gamma^{\mu} P_{L} d\right)\left[\bar{u} P_{L} d\right]+(L \leftrightarrow R) \\
& \mathcal{V}_{4}^{\mu}=\left(\bar{u} t^{a} \gamma^{\mu} P_{L} d\right)\left[\bar{u} t^{a} P_{L} d\right]+(L \leftrightarrow R)
\end{aligned}
$$

## Extracting $\langle p p| H_{i}|n n\rangle$

- The short-distance ME is $\langle p p| H_{i}|n n\rangle$; it can be extracted from the correlator:

$$
C_{i}(t, \tau)=\sum_{\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}}\left\langle\mathcal{O}_{p p}(\mathbf{y}, t) H_{i}(\mathbf{x}, \tau) \mathcal{O}_{n n}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{z}, 0)\right\rangle
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$$

$$
R_{i}(t, \tau)=\frac{C_{i}(t, \tau)}{C_{2}(t)}
$$

$$
\xrightarrow{0 \ll \tau<t<t} 2 m_{p p}\langle p p| H_{i}|n n\rangle
$$

Wall source

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$$



$$
\begin{aligned}
& R_{i}(t, \tau)=\frac{C_{i}(t, \tau)}{C_{2}(t)} \\
& \quad \xrightarrow{0 \ll \tau \ll t \ll T} 2 m_{p p}\langle p p| H_{i}|n n\rangle
\end{aligned}
$$

- Fit $R_{i}(t, \tau)$ with model:

$$
f(t, \tau)=A+B e^{-\delta t}+C e^{-\delta(t-\tau)}
$$

Fits to $R_{i}(t, \tau)$ (scalar)

 Shaded band $=2 m_{p p}\langle p p| \mathcal{O}_{k}|n n\rangle$



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- Renormalization coefficients for the scalar operators are computed; vector operator renormalization calculation ongoing.
- Uncertainties $(X)$ for all matrix elements still being quantified, $\approx 10-20 \%$.
- Scalar operators (renormalized, units in $10^{-2} \mathrm{GeV}^{4}$ ):

| $H_{i}$ | $\mathcal{O}_{1}$ | $\mathcal{O}_{1^{\prime}}$ | $\mathcal{O}_{2}$ | $\mathcal{O}_{2^{\prime}}$ | $\mathcal{O}_{3}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\langle p p\| H_{i}\|n n\rangle$ | $-0.1(\mathrm{X})$ | $-1.5(\mathrm{X})$ | $-1.5(\mathrm{X})$ | $-0.5(\mathrm{X})$ | $-3.1(\mathrm{X})$ |



- Vector operators (bare, units in $10^{-2} \mathrm{GeV}^{4}$ ):

| $H_{i}$ | $\mathcal{V}_{1}$ | $\mathcal{V}_{2}$ | $\mathcal{V}_{3}$ | $\mathcal{V}_{4}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\langle p p\| H_{i}\|n n\rangle$ | $-1(\mathrm{X})$ | $-0.2(\mathrm{X})$ | $-0.2(\mathrm{X})$ | $-0.4(\mathrm{X})$ |

## Conclusion



- We have presented preliminary results for the long- and short-distance contributions to the $n^{0} n^{0} \rightarrow p^{+} p^{+} e^{-} e^{-}$decay.
- First LQCD calculation of $0 \nu \beta \beta$ decay in a nuclear system.
- Many systematics (fits, renormalization) still under investigation.
- Final matrix elements will be matched to $\not \subset E F T$.


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- Final matrix elements will be matched to $\not \subset E F T$.

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## Backup slides

## Stability plots for $M^{0 \nu}$





## Long-distance crosschecks




## Summation Method

(linear)
Summation Method (linear + exponential)
Summation-method average (AIC weight)
Global-fit average (AIC weights)
(\$) Global-fit average (uniform weights) Sequential fitting strategy

## Nuclear Matrix Elements (NMEs)

- Theoretical inputs necessary to understand $0 \nu \beta \beta$ decay are NMEs:

- Current estimates of NMEs are computed using many-body nuclear physics.


Above: long-distance NMEs for $0 \nu \beta \beta$ decay.
Dolinski et. al., nucl-ex/1902.04097 (2019)

## Previous studies

- Previous LQCD $0 \nu \beta \beta$ decay studies have focused on extracting the $\pi^{-} \rightarrow \pi^{+} e^{-} e^{-}$ transition amplitude.

- Mesonic system $\Longrightarrow$ simple enough for controlled continuum extrapolation.
- $\pi^{-} \rightarrow \pi^{+} e^{-} e^{-}$matrix elements are necessary input to nuclear EFTs.


## Neutrino propagator

- The neutrino mass $m_{\beta \beta}$ directly gives a measure of lepton-number violation:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{\not p-m_{\beta \beta}} & =\frac{{ }^{0}+m_{\beta \beta}}{p^{2}-m_{\beta \beta}^{2}} \longrightarrow m_{\beta \beta} \frac{1}{p^{2}} \equiv m_{\beta \beta} S_{\nu}\left(p^{2}\right) \\
& \Longrightarrow S_{\nu}(x-y)=\frac{1}{4 \pi^{2}(x-y)^{2}}
\end{aligned}
$$

- The finite-volume neutrino propagator $S_{\nu}$ is singular as $x \rightarrow y$ and is regulated by subtracting the zero-mode contribution:

$$
m_{\beta \beta} S_{\nu}(\mathbf{z}, \tau)=\frac{m_{\beta \beta}}{2 L^{3}} \sum_{\mathbf{q} \neq \mathbf{0}} \frac{e^{i \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{z}}}{|\mathbf{q}|} e^{-|\mathbf{q}||\tau|}
$$

> Z. Davoudi, S. Kadam.
hep-lat/2012.02083 (2020)

## Extracting $M^{0 \nu}$

- Extracting $M^{0 \nu}$ on the lattice requires computing the following 4-point function:

$$
C_{4}\left(t_{+}, t_{x}, t_{y}, t_{-}\right) \equiv \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} S_{\nu}(x-y) \Gamma_{\alpha \beta}\left\langle\mathcal{O}_{p p}\left(t_{+}\right) J_{\alpha}(x) J_{\beta}(y) \mathcal{O}_{n n}^{\dagger}\left(t_{-}\right)\right\rangle
$$

- $M^{0 \nu}$ can be expressed as an integral over the operator separation time $v$ :

$$
M^{0 \nu}=2 m_{p p} \int_{\mathbb{R}} d v R(v) \quad R(v)=\lim _{t_{+} \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{-\rightarrow-\infty} \frac{C_{4}\left(t_{+}, 0, v, t_{-}\right)}{C_{2}\left(t_{+}-t_{-}\right)}
$$

## Correlation function data



## Extracting $R(v)$

- Excited state contamination from sink $\gg$ contamination from source.




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Below: $C_{4} / C_{2}$ ratio for $v=1$, as
a function of $\Delta_{\text {snk }}$.

$$
\begin{gathered}
f\left(v, \Delta_{\text {snk }}\right)=R(v)+A(v) \exp \left(-\delta E \Delta_{\mathrm{snk}}\right) \\
\text { Energy gap for 1st excited state }
\end{gathered}
$$

- Fits are performed with all data $\Delta_{\text {snk }} \geq \Delta_{\text {snk }}^{\mathrm{cut}}$, where $\Delta_{\text {snk }}^{\mathrm{cut}} \in\{1,2, \ldots, 6\}$.
- Different fits are combined in a weighted average using an AIC weight.

$$
w_{f} \propto \frac{1}{\sigma_{R_{f}(v)}^{2}} e^{2 n_{\mathrm{p}}-\chi^{2}}
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## $R(v)$ (sequential fit)



| $\Delta_{\text {snk }}=3$ |
| :---: |
| $\Delta_{\text {snk }}=4$ |
| $\Delta_{\text {snk }}=5$ |
| $\Delta_{\text {snk }}=6$ |
| $\Delta_{\text {snk }}=7$ |
| $\Delta_{\text {snk }}=8$ |
| $\Delta_{\text {snk }}=9$ |
| $\Delta_{\text {snk }}=10$ |
| $\Delta_{\text {snk }}=11$ |
| $\Delta_{\text {snk }}=12$ |
| $\Delta_{\text {snk }}=13$ |
| $R(v)$ |
| Fit to $R(v)$ |

Fits to $R_{i}(t, \tau)$ (vector)





## Four-point function contractions

$$
C_{4}\left(t_{+}, t_{x}, t_{y}, t_{-}\right) \equiv \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} S_{\nu}(x-y) \Gamma_{\alpha \beta}\left\langle\mathcal{O}_{p p}\left(t_{+}\right) J_{\alpha}(x) J_{\beta}(y) \mathcal{O}_{n n}^{\dagger}\left(t_{-}\right)\right\rangle
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## Four-point function contractions

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## Renormalization

- Renormalize matrix elements in $\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$ at 3 GeV .
- Compute in RI/sMOM scheme and perturbatively match to $\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$.
- Operators with the same quantum numbers mix under renormalization.
- Vector operators and scalar operators renormalize separately. For the scalars:

$$
\mathcal{O}_{k}^{\overline{\mathrm{MS}}}\left(x ; \mu^{2}, a\right)=Z_{k \ell}^{\overline{\mathrm{MS}}}\left(\mu^{2}, a\right) \mathcal{O}_{\ell}^{(0)}(x ; a)
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Diagonals: order 1 numbers perturbatively match to $\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$.

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Off-diagonals: small


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Chirally disallowed
components $\propto$ scale of explicit chiral sym. breaking

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- $Z_{k \ell}^{\overline{\mathrm{MS}}}$ computed for the scalar operators. Vector operators still components $\propto$ scale of ongoing (computing perturbative matching coefficients).


## RI/sMOM scheme

- Renormalization condition at scale $\mu$ : For an operator with $n-1$ quark fields, impose that its renormalized, amputated $n$-point function equals its tree level value at kinematical point $p_{1}^{2}=p_{2}^{2}=\left(p_{2}-p_{1}\right)^{2}=\mu^{2}$.
- Example: vector current $V_{\mu}(x)=\bar{q}(x) \gamma_{\mu} q(x)$ :
$\Longrightarrow$ Allows us to solve for $Z$ factors!


## RI/sMOM details

- RI/sMOM renormalization coefficients computed from the following correlation functions

$$
\left(G_{n}\right)_{a b c d}^{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta}\left(q ; a, m_{\ell}\right) \equiv \frac{1}{V} \sum_{x} \sum_{x_{1}, \ldots, x_{4}} e^{i\left(p_{1} \cdot x_{1}-p_{2} \cdot x_{2}+p_{1} \cdot x_{3}-p_{2} \cdot x_{4}+2 q \cdot x\right)}\langle 0| \bar{d}_{d}^{\delta}\left(x_{4}\right) u_{c}^{\gamma}\left(x_{3}\right) Q_{n}(x) \bar{d}_{b}^{\beta}\left(x_{2}\right) u_{a}^{\alpha}\left(x_{1}\right)|0\rangle
$$



## Matching to $\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$

- Must match to a scheme useful for phenomenology: $\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$
Compute $Z_{i j}^{\mathrm{RI}}$ at some scale $\mu_{0}$ with

Minimize discretization artifacts

| $\mu_{1}=3 \mathrm{GeV}$ |
| :---: |
| $\mu_{0}^{24 \mathrm{I}}=2.64 \mathrm{GeV}$ |
| $\mu_{0}^{32 \mathrm{I}}=2.65 \mathrm{GeV}$ |

Perturbative

## Scalar renormalization coefficients

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mathcal{O}_{1} \\
\mathcal{O}_{2}
\end{gathered} \mathcal{O}_{3} \quad \mathcal{O}_{1}^{\prime} \quad\left(\begin{array}{c}
\mathcal{O}_{2}^{\prime} \\
\left(\begin{array}{ccccc}
1.052858(50) & -0.053108(43) & -0.030135(27) & -0.022902(46) & 0.005743(11) \\
0.0009582(80) & 1.149495(86) & 0.0087372(66) & -0.121115(95) & -0.036316(61) \\
-0.15173(13) & 0.051102(41) & 1.012623(59) & 0.012361(13) & 0.040269(29) \\
-0.085598(83) & -0.17768(14) & -0.012271(11) & 1.233651(87) & 0.009177(12) \\
0.0026951(82) & 0.009634(41) & 0.0046114(34) & 0.023611(20) & 1.139097(57)
\end{array}\right)
\end{array}\right.
$$

